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Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

7 March 1974

Rear Admiral E. F. Rectanus
United States Navy
Director of Naval Intelligence
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Dear Rex:

Your memorandum of 2 March ("National Intelligence Production on Foreign Strategic Programs, February to July 1974") reached me yesterday. (Why the travel time of documents between Langley and the Pentagon seems to be measured in days is something I have never been able to find out. I think our respective mail rooms float bottles up the Potomac with the tide and down with the current.)

I appreciate the frankness of your note and the importance of the issues it raises, some of which we also discussed at the excellent lunch you kindly gave [redacted] and me for which I have been remiss in not thanking you before now. I asked [redacted] who is Acting NIO for Strategic Programs while Howard Stoertz is [redacted] to cover some of the points raised in your memorandum during his conversation with you this afternoon and to clarify certain areas of inadvertent misunderstanding. As I asked [redacted] to explain, one reason item 5 was included in the proposed intelligence production program in the Strategic Programs area was to benefit the Navy by giving it a chance to express its views (along with the conclusions of analysis it has already performed in this field) in a national intelligence level document. This seemed to us to be far better than having such views confined to dissenting footnotes in national estimates on somewhat broader topics. Thus, actually, we had a common outlook, not -- as events may have made it appear -- a divergent one.

I appreciate the words of encouragement and support contained in the last paragraph of your 2 March memorandum, doubly so because the very vigor and frankness with which you have felt free to express your opinions to me, both orally and in writing, makes it clear that your words of support are sincere. The system we are trying to

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evolve on behalf of the DCI and the whole intelligence community will not and cannot work unless all of us participating in this joint venture feel free to give frank voice to developments which trouble us or situations that we perceive as being potential problem areas. I take considerable encouragement from the fact that you share my feeling that our own relations are such that neither need have any hesitation about being completely candid with the other.

I hope you have a pleasant trip to Latin America. I look forward to helping ONI celebrate its ninety second birthday and to pursuing these matters with you further upon your return.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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